

things, maintained the effectiveness of the coastwise laws until the present day. The Jones Act was enacted at a historical juncture which posed certain challenges to the United States of America that are no longer a concern. As a result, maritime transportation from U.S. ports to the Island may only be provided by U.S.-built, -owned and -crewed vessels. Thus, the U.S. Congress enacted legislation providing that, in order to move goods between the United States of America and Puerto Rico, vessels should not only be built in the United States but must also be owned and operated by U.S. citizens. This federal legislation also applies to Guam and the states of Alaska and Hawaii. The territory of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, however, are exempt from the Jones Act.

With regard to maritime transportation, on March 14, 2013, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, commonly known as GAO, issued a report stating that the Jones Act may result in higher freight rates, particularly for certain goods, than would be the case if service by foreign carriers were allowed. Likewise, the conclusions of the report state that the original goal of the Act remains important to military preparedness and to the shipbuilding and maritime industries, but understanding the full extent and distribution of the costs that underlie these benefits is elusive.

It is a well-known fact that Puerto Rico is facing difficult economic challenges that have worsened with the passage of hurricanes Irma and Maria, the earthquakes of January 2020, inflation, the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, and more recently, the cost of fuel, factors that are out of the government and the consumer's control. That is, the rising oil prices coupled with the effects of inflation and the emergencies have steadily increased the prices of food, transportation, and electricity, thus adversely affecting consumer and business spending.

In addition to global security concerns, the war between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in a shortage of consumer goods and pushed oil prices above \$125 per barrel, after having remained steady between \$80.00 and \$90.00 for a considerable time. Should this war continue and no agreement be reached, it might lead to a crude oil shortage in Europe, which would have repercussions on the global market, such as even higher prices. There is concern due to the fact that there is no indication as to whether the price of crude oil, goods, and transportation shall stabilize any time soon. On the contrary, projections show that rising costs and instability shall persist.

In spite of our efforts to transform electric power generation in Puerto Rico, our system still relies primarily on crude oil and petroleum products. Likewise, most individual, mass transit, and freight motor vehicles on the Island run on gasoline or diesel. Therefore, granting Puerto Rico a partial exemption from the Jones Act is necessary to prevent future electricity rate increases, mitigate the rising costs of gasoline, diesel, transportation, as well as the potential shortage of crude oil in Europe.

For all of the foregoing, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico deems it necessary to take action in order to mitigate the multiplier effect that crude oil price fluctuations are having on the economy, by requesting the President of the United States of America and his government to approve a partial exemption from the application of the Coastwise Laws to the maritime transportation of crude oil and petroleum products between the United States of America and Puerto Rico for the duration of the armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia as well as the collateral thereof.

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico:*

Section 1.—The President of the United States of America is hereby requested to grant a partial exemption from the application of Coastwise Laws to the maritime transportation of crude oil and petroleum products between the United States of America and Puerto Rico for the duration of the armed conflict between Ukraine and Russia and the collateral effects thereof. The foregoing for the purpose of addressing the demand for land transportation and energy generation on the Island, as well as to mitigate what would otherwise be higher crude oil prices given the volatility of the international market.

Section 2.—A copy of this Resolution, translated into the English language, shall be delivered to the President of the United States of America; the Department of Homeland Security; the leadership of the United States Congress; and the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico in Washington, D.C.

Section 3.—This Resolution shall take effect upon its approval.

POM-144. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging the United States House of Representatives to pass the Sunshine Protection Act of 2021, which would make daylight saving time permanent; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 2142. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 Manhattan Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the "Indiana Hunt-Martin Post Office Building".

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

\*Jaime E. Lizarraga, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2027.

\*Mark Toshiro Uyeda, of California, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2023.

\*Michael S. Barr, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2018.

\*Michael S. Barr, of Michigan, to be Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4357. A bill to reauthorize the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. SUL-LIVAN):

S. 4358. A bill to establish an awareness campaign related to the lethality of fentanyl and fentanyl-contaminated drugs, to establish a Federal Interagency Work Group on Fentanyl Contamination of Illegal Drugs, and to provide community-based coalition enhancement grants to mitigate the effects of drug misuse; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 4359. A bill to designate the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 4360. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to extend the authority to temporarily adjust the basic allowance for housing in certain areas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 4361. A bill to require reports to Congress on reporting and disclosure requirements related to retirement plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 4362. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4363. A bill to require commissary and exchange stores in the United States that offer gasoline for commercial sale to offer the sale of at least one fuel that contains not less than 13 percent ethanol; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 4364. A bill to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Government of the Russian Federation or the Russian energy sector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 663. A resolution honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. HEINRICH):